

N THIS ISSUE

spastics
ack Britain

SPASTICS NEWS

FEBRUARY 1968

THE SPASTICS SOCIETY MAGAZINE

Price 6d



* '62 CLUB WEDDING OF THE YEAR

Bride and bridegroom, Pamela Metherell and Kenneth Annal, are pictured here cutting the cake at the Park Crescent reception which followed their wedding at St. Paul's Parish Church, North Finchley. The London '62 Club was well in evidence at the ceremony to see their Assistant Club Organiser well and truly wed.

THE SPASTICS SOCIETY

CASTLE PRIORY COLLEGE

TRAINING COURSES FOR CARE STAFF - 1968/1969

- a) Residential Child Care,
- b) Care of the Handicapped Adult.

Applications are invited for these two Residential Courses at Castle Priory College, Wallingford, commencing September, 1968, and concluding December, 1969. Candidates must have at least one year's full-time experience of caring for children or adults, and the minimum age for consideration is 18 for women and 21 for men.

- a) This course, based on the syllabus issued by the Central Training Council in Child Care, covers aspects of care and development of both normal and handicapped children, with special reference to the cerebral palsied, and the particular needs of children receiving special educational treatment.
- b) This is a comprehensive course, offering opportunities for particular, as well as general, study of problems met in caring for the handicapped, and is for persons of varied backgrounds, ages and interests. Following the suggestions made in a contemporary report on residential provision, participants will be made aware of the nature of the work encountered in the whole range of care establishments, and given opportunity for further study of the needs of both physically and mentally handicapped adults.

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Requests for application forms and other information should be made forthwith to:-

**The Tutor Organiser,
Castle Priory College,
Thames Street,
Wallingford, Berks,**

quoting reference SN.

SPASTICS NEWS

The magazine of The Spastics Society

Editor: Oliver Beckett
assisted by Joy Maitland

THE SPASTICS SOCIETY

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A Christmas Preview for the Director



When Mr. J. A. Loring visited Spastics Cards Headquarters at Iwer in December he was shown the range of new merchandise for next Christmas. He is pictured here discussing the new gift boxes, appointment calendars and wrapping papers with Mr. J. L. Kellett (left), Managing Director of Spastics Cards Ltd., who is confident that these new lines will bring an even greater response than last year's record sales

Gold Award Winner

IN OUR SPECIAL *Accent on Youth* Christmas issue, we showed a picture of Miss Dorcas Munday, a winner of the Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Medal. Since this was published, Dorcas has been to Buckingham Palace to receive her Award from Prince Philip.

'Everyone was so nice', she said, describing her experiences, 'Even the policemen had been told to watch out for us. In the Palace we did not go up the main staircase used by the other recipients. We were taken another way so that a lift could be used for my chair.'

Dorcas, who organises the *Physically Handicapped and Able Bodied Youth Club* in her home town of Wellingborough, cannot use her hands and does practically everything with her mouth. Despite these limitations, she received her award for flower arranging, family budgeting, the art of make-up and hair-style, stamp collecting and art appreciation.

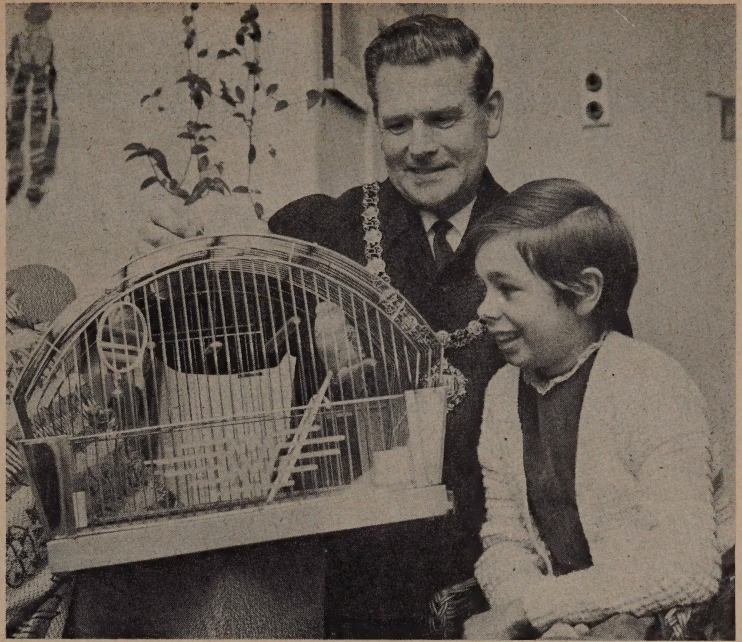
As part of her study course she went to Paris and saw the paintings by modern and old masters in the Louvre. For her expedition, she attended a joint able-bodied and handicapped persons training college course at Cranleigh.

Dorcas will make use of her award studies in furthering the activities of the PHAB Club.

A Dream come true

A dream came true for 12-year-old Denise Parker when the Mayor of Gateshead, Alderman Albert Turnbull, gave her a budgerigar. Denise's comment: It's fabulous just what I wanted'.

Denise, a pupil at the Percy Hedley School, has wanted a budgerigar since she met Jimmy, a budgie, at the orthopaedic ward of Newcastle's Sanderson Hospital last June. However, her father has been unemployed for three years and could not afford one. So Councillor Joseph McClure and the Mayor stepped in. The Councillor found a cage and stand, and the Mayor bought a budgerigar out of his own money



(Photo: West Lancashire Evening Gazette)

A Message from the Old Vicarage

by PENELOPE HILL

(Extract from Feering Parish Magazine)

I WONDER HOW MANY PEOPLE are alive today who can remember *Drummonds* when it was *The Vicarage* and the centre of the village?

My father, the Rev. W. J. Packe, was Vicar of Feering for thirty-six years, 1873-1909. He and my mother were 'Father and Mother' to the whole village.

We were a family of six, and father was never happier than when the house was full to overflowing, especially in the holidays when a family of cousins, whose parents had died in India, came to live with us.

The Vicarage welcomed everybody, including the newest baby born in the village who, after being baptised in Church on a Sunday afternoon, would be brought to the Vicarage for the Register and Christening card to be filled in and we children were allowed to come and look at the baby.

In the summer after Sunday School and a short afternoon service in Church, my father would delight in personally conducting tours round the garden for anyone who cared to come.

If it had been possible to record vibrations in those days, I am sure the

strongest vibration would have been 'Welcome' and all that that stands for. When Mr. Moody first came to Feering I had so hoped he could have lived at the old Vicarage but it was not to be.

In the meanwhile, there had been a Second World War and the world had changed. The old Vicarage had been sold and was now called Drummonds and a new Vicarage had been bought. After a little while it was planned that the old Vicarage (Drummonds) was to become a spastic centre and when I heard of the garden and field being levelled and the trees we had loved so dearly being cut down I felt I could never go there again.

I have made it a custom for several years to go at least once a year, on what I call my Feering Pilgrimage. People said to me this year 'Don't go to Drummonds, they are cutting down all the trees, it will break your heart'. Mr. Moody on the contrary advised me to go and said, 'I will take you now'. We walked through the churchyard into the drive and up to the house. The sun was shining as it always seemed to shine at Feering. We walked through the yew arch on to the terrace and I looked for

the garden—it had vanished. There was no old mulberry tree on the lawn or cedar tree, no flowers, no beauty, just nothing but desolation as far as one could see.

At first I was filled with horror and felt this must be a nightmare and could not be true and then in the far distance I could see men working on new buildings and remembered this was a new world and what I saw was not destruction, but construction.

I turned and looked at the beloved house and in a flash I knew there was still continuity and the Spirit of Goodness, Happiness and Welcome that had always been associated with the old Vicarage could not be lost but was alive today and Drummonds was waiting with open arms to bless its new family and its message was 'WELCOME'.

I turned and came away with a heart full of peace and thanksgiving.

(I am extremely grateful to Mrs. Penelope Hill, who the senior Parishioners will remember as Miss Penelope Packe, for sending this article.—Editor.)



and I'm Backing Spastics

says JANET EVANS

SPASTIC EMPLOYEES at the Society's training and work centres have been quick to join the Back Britain Campaign.

Sixty-five trainees at Sherrards, hearing about the firms which are making sacrifices in an effort to improve the economic situation of the country decided that they too, would like to do their bit. Consequently a group of the trainees told the centre's principal, Mr. V. King, of their unanimous decision and asked if they could work an extra half-hour day without pay. Previously the trainees, 46 men and 24 girls, had been working from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. during their five-day week.

Mr. King said, 'I was, of course, pleased to hear of their interest in the campaign and providing that we have the staff's co-operation and enough work to occupy the trainees they will certainly be given a chance to help the country. The weather has made it impossible for the scheme to be put into operation straightaway, but as soon as the opportunity presents itself we shall be working the extra hours'.

The trainees are employed in light engineering and assembly work which is subcontracted by several local firms and others throughout the country.

In addition, twenty-five spastics at the work training centre in Barry, Glamorgan, have volunteered to work an extra half-hour each day, too, thus increasing their timetable to six hours a day. They make coat-hangers, hand-painted garden ornaments and inter-woven fencing panels for sub-contractors.

Not forgetting twenty employees of Paddington Work Centre who had already offered to put in the extra half-hour daily.

Spastics are backing Britain in no uncertain way.

THE OLD YEAR IS GONE, a New Year begun. 1967 will go down in the history of The Spastics Society as a very bleak year indeed. The income of the Society was drastically reduced due to taxation, and many of the plans for the future have had to be shelved for the time being.

To add to this financial crisis, the £ has now been devalued. This may not seem so very serious until you realise that the man in the street—the person from whom a great deal of the Society's money comes—has a £ in his pocket which will buy less, it means that there is less spare cash to give to charity.

I know I speak for all spastics, when I say that never before have we felt so dependent on the generosity of the public for our future. It is indeed a very terrifying thought that the day may come when there are not enough funds to meet our needs. What can we do to help?

I think our greatest ally will be patience. Everyone, whether parent, helper or spastic, must not be too disappointed if the Society cannot help us in the way that we would wish, especially in matters of finance. Every penny saved is helping to avert the crisis.

As an officer of a '62 Club, I think that '62 Clubs can prove NOW that they are independent, and rely on their own resources to make a success of the Club. Perhaps the members can help their local Spastics Society in some small way, even if this has not been tried before!

Although the Society is in difficulty, spastics themselves have a golden opportunity to prove their usefulness. If we can show the public, by 'doing our bit' that the Society's work is very important, the money may still come in. The public will respond if we show that we are grateful for their support.

Many spastics feel that they are permanently on the 'receiving end' of charity. We now have a chance to show that we want, and are able, to help the Society that has done so much for us.

Each Group has special problems, each spastic has different problems, but the problem of finance is something which concerns us all. Let 1968 be the year in which we all pull together, and help as much as possible.

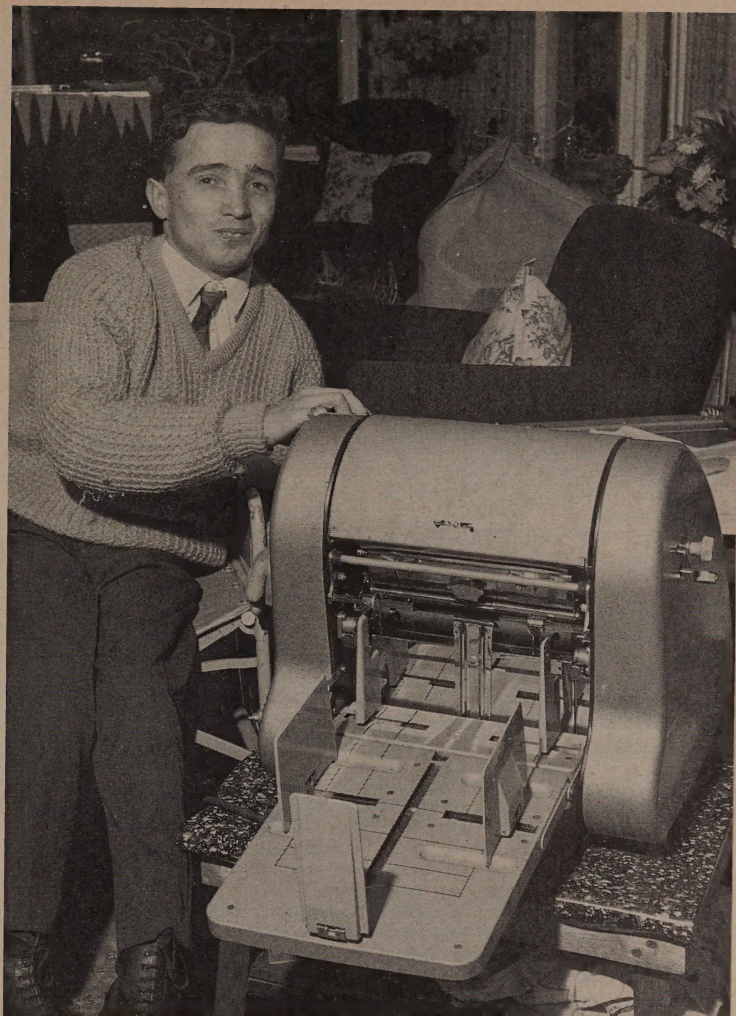
Parents of spastics began working sixteen years ago to secure the future for us. Let us now, in our turn, try to secure the future for the spastic of tomorrow.

A lot has been said about 'Backing Britain'. Personally, 'I'm Backing Spastics' to lend the helping hand.



Mrs. Nancy Hall, President of The Wycombe and District Spastics Society and Mr. R. Nixon, the Wycombe Society's Chairman, are pictured here receiving the key of the new ambulance presented by the 'Knights' of High Wycombe's Round Table. The several fund-raising activities undertaken by the 'Knights' included a successful Donkey Derby

'Untrainable' Spastic to Successful Businessman



(Courtesy: West of England Newspapers Ltd.)

A SPASTIC who was once assessed by the Ministry of Labour as 'untrainable', is now running his own prosperous business and in two years has paid off a £1,200 bill for equipment.

Twenty-five-year-old Peter Rowe of Torquay, operates a typing, printing and duplicating service from his wheelchair and has enough work to keep him busy full-time for five days a week. His latest big job is a 100-page book for a missionary in Northern Nigeria. Most of his work is on contract—he does quite a bit for the Rehabilitation Loan Society which helps disabled people to start in business on their own.

Peter's success story began when he was 16 and had to go into hospital for four operations. While he was there he

decided to take a correspondence course in typing. He was unable to take his City and Guilds examination—but his tutor gave him 95 per cent for accuracy.

'When I got in touch with a training college to find out what I could do in the way of a career they were not very helpful', said Peter. 'In fact they told me I was totally unable to do any work.'

The Ministry of Labour supported that view, marked him as 'unfit to be trained' and shelved his case. So Peter decided to go it alone, supported by determination and sheer pluck. A stroke of good fortune came with the salesman who sold him a duplicating machine. He turned out to have been an occupational therapist during the war and had just the right amount of practical sympathy.

Before long Peter was the proud owner of a duplicating machine, an electric typewriter and other equipment—and the message 'Pay us when you can'. The bill was paid in two months.

Future plans include the setting up of his own poster agency, in addition to the printing agency which he runs.

Record Star Show, March 24th, 1968

At the Empire Pool, Wembley. David Jacobs is organising the artists for this event which is again to be sponsored by the *Daily Express*. Tickets available from the Box Office, Wembley, priced 5s., 7s. 6d., 10s. 6d., 12s. 6d., 15s. and £1 1s.

Television and its Addicted Audience

by J. K. HALL, a resident at 'The Bedford'

JOHN LOGIE BAIRD (1886-1926) had no idea that his invention of the television set would have such an immense addictive effect on British society today.

Before putting pen to paper, figuratively, of course, I would like to begin my article by stressing two specific points. I do not suggest that Baird's creation should be banned because it may be thought to have an evil influence, neither do I intend to enter into those boring technicalities in efforts to explain how pictures, moments after the image has been captured by the camera, are relayed through a mass of wires on to a nineteen-inch (average) screen. But my aim is to outline the general effect which T.V. has on society, to analyse its attitude towards the viewer, and to account for the 'goggle-box of Great Britain' being given such towering priority that it is almost like being addicted to a drug.

The general effect on the constant T.V. viewer must be a loss of physical fitness, due, mainly, to spending night after night in a soft armchair. Absorbed in his favourite programme, he is lost to all need for activity. In a sense, society as a whole has had to bear the same cross, because an influential imprint has been left upon the minds of the younger generation—not, as you may have presumed, crime—and therefore as these addicts mature into adults we find ourselves playing second fiddle to a bunch of old-fashioned gimmicks, strictly produced for screen presentation.

A particularly good example of this imprint is the way youngsters of say 16-20 years-of-age endeavour to imitate—I suppose just for sheer amusement—the voices of cartoon characters which were originally created for the amusement of children of say 3-7, and using this type of dialect in everyday speech must surely have a bad effect upon fluent powers of conversation in later life.

While I am on this point of the influence of television on the younger generation, I want to state quite firmly and flatly that I do not believe this addiction can be blamed for enticing young people to turn to a life of crime; I think that society ought to search for another explanation for this serious tendency.

However, television's growth in popularity has resulted in a noticeable absence of people from public houses, cinemas

and other places of recreation, and now the stage has been reached where advertisements are being screened in earnest requesting the return of these people. Television has also proved to be a staple topic of conversation, for on buses, trains or even at work, all one hears about is the previous night's viewing.

The working classes, especially, regard T.V. as such a predominant feature in their lives that whenever their sets happen to sustain a fault they become as restless as addicts who have been robbed of their drugs.

Although there have been two channels—ITA and BBC—which have dominated our T.V. screens, and for that matter our lives, it has been revealed by TAM—Television Audience Measurement—that the former has now taken the lead in T.V.'s unremitting struggle for audience attraction.

In spite of being two competitive concerns, it is, in my firm belief, the object of both channels to convey to their wide audiences this addictive fever which I was discussing earlier.

I suppose the main difference between the programmes shown by the two channels, is that whereas the Independent Companies experiment with various types of programmes to suit the many different intelligence levels of the viewers, the BBC try to maintain a higher standard—in an effort to bring a halt to this gradual but endless slide of uncultured viewing, thrust upon us by its competitor. 'Live' coverage of such great sporting events as World Cup (football) Tournaments, Test Matches (cricket), and Wimbledon Lawn Tennis Championships, has been the BBC's principle retaliation weapon, because the British are sports mad—or at least sportsviewing mad. But I think this weapon is being vastly overworked, for the BBC regard it as a far too reliable source for attracting viewers, but not creating athletes. Potential stars spend so much time watching T.V. that they forget to exercise their own talents, which would probably be representing Britain.

In my opinion, I blame both T.V. and the addicts themselves for this great slump of intelligence. Why should we glue our eyes to a nineteen-inch screen when Britain has so many other things to see and do?

But, however, grant T.V. its due. In

spite of my, perhaps harsh criticisms of television, I am sure that many old people and life's unfortunate people, who lead such secluded lives, would have been in a much darker wilderness without this splendid substitute. Admittedly, watching world affairs programmes does help to broaden our outlook on life, but we are blessed with only a small percentage of these.

Before concluding this article I would like to pose one vital question: if television is the result of this distinct decline of intellectuality, as I believe, why do we not strive after a remedy for this appalling addiction?

News in Brief . . .

RECENTLY BEACON visits in London have been made by Jean Aubrey, Jack Howarth, Sylvia Syms and Alan Freeman. Our thanks go to all those artists who have done so much to help the success of the Beacon scheme in 1967.

* * *

BEACON VISITS in the North have been carried out by Joe Black, Mark Wynter, Johnnie Whiteley, and, of course, our old friend, Jack Howarth. Jack has done so much to help spastics over the past years that he was recently elected a vice-president of the S.O.S.

Holiday Address List, 1968

If you have holiday problems, the new 1968 Holiday Address List may help you to solve them. This booklet which contains details of holiday homes, hotels, children's homes, bungalows, caravans and holiday flats, is now available upon application to:

The Holiday Organiser,
The Spastics Society,
12 Park Crescent,
London, W.1.

The Holiday Organiser will also be pleased to help with any other holiday queries.

This Boot's not made for Walking!



(Photo: Syndication International)

IF YOU HAD A GIANT BOOT, 11 foot long by 9 foot high, and you wanted to get rid of it what would you do with it?

That was the problem facing sixth formers at Dr. Challoner's High School at Little Chalfont, near Amersham, Bucks; and they turned it into a gigantic money-box for the Society. How? Well, it was like this. . . .

The girls had made the boot in papier mâché as part of the decor for the school's New Year dance. But after the dance the headmistress ruled that the boot was taking up too much room and gave it its marching orders. Either give it away or destroy it, she told the girls.

It was really too splendid to destroy—and anyway there is almost as much work in breaking up an 11 foot long boot as there is in building it, so the girls issued an S.O.S. Will anyone take our boot away and give it a good home?

A story appeared in the National Press and along came Associated Rediffusion, the television company. Yes, we'll have your boot, they said, and carted it off to their studios at Wembley.

But then came the problem—what shall

we do with it? Together the sixth-formers and the production team of the children's programme 'Come Here Often' came up with the answer. 'Let's put it on T.V. and ask people to send in money for charity they said. 'We'll collect the money in the boot'.

And so it appeared on Tuesday, 23rd January, on television and, at the request of the girls of Dr. Challoner's School, the proceeds were to go to their favourite cause—The Spastics Society's Thomas Delarue School at Tonbridge, Kent.

Then Rediffusion got requests from other organisations like London University and the Golden Shoe Club. Can we borrow the boot? London University wanted to set it up in Oxford Street, London, to collect money during their rag week. The Golden Shoe Club (an organisation concerned with footwear safety and fitting) wanted it as a centrepiece for exhibitions.

Rediffusion were delighted to lend it—providing the borrowers gave a donation to The Spastics Society.

And that's how things stand at the time of writing. But one thing is sure, however much the boot raises, the Society

is extremely grateful to the girls of Dr. Challoner's School and to Rediffusion for their kindness and generosity.

And to think it was nearly given the boot. . . .

Bootnote: We hope to let you know the results of collections in a future issue of SPASTICS NEWS.

News from Nottingham

A new way to distribute publicity

NOTTINGHAM FRIENDS OF SPASTICS recently entered a float in the University Carnival Procession.

The theme was 'Please Help Local Spastics', and the two glamorous real life 'Christines' who were part of the decorations were able to distribute hundreds of Year Books *en route*.

Mr. D. Wollard, a commercial artist, and Miss J. Farmer, an occupational therapist, together with other Committee members, organised the float.



(Courtesy: Slough Observer)

Although she has hardly any use in her limbs Margaret Stoves of Ponds found that she could move one hand enough to operate the simple controls of this new electric wheelchair—and can get around independently for the first time in her life

Longfields—The Largest Spastics Centre in Wales

'SPASTICS CAN, AND DO, contribute much to the life of the community', declared Sir Elwyn Jones, the Attorney General, when he opened a £30,000 occupational therapy unit in Swansea, on 9th December last. This unit is the latest addition to Longfields, the Swansea and District Spastics Association's centre at West Cross.

Longfields, which now caters for about forty-five spastics aged from 3½ to 30 years, is a magnificent achievement on the part of the group of parents who started the Swansea project just fifteen years ago. In that short time they have built the largest spastics centre in Wales. It began with a school and nursery centre, then a work centre was built seven years ago, at a cost of £10,000. Now the new unit has been added for which The Spastics Society provided two-thirds of the cost, and the rest was raised locally. It is likely that the Swansea Association will have to find a large part, if not the whole, of the running costs of about £15,000 a year.

The story of Longfields will be featured in more detail in the March issue of SPASTICS NEWS.

£250 Gift for Lanthorne

PFIZERS, the Kent chemical firm, has sent a £250 cheque to Lanthorne Hospital School, Broadstairs.

'This donation is part of our policy of giving money to a worthwhile cause rather than sending out Christmas cards,'

said a Pfizer spokesman, 'We normally try and help a local effort—and a lot of our staff live near the school.'

Bruno Helps Spastics

A 10-STONE ST. BERNARD DOG, 'Bruno' and his master, Mr. William Bull of Birkenhead, have between them collected more than £106 for spastics. Mr. Bull took 'Bruno' round the market, cinema and dozens of pubs in the week before Christmas to raise this money, which was handed over to the area collector.

New Warden at Scalesceugh

COL. H. HARVEY WILLIAMS, recently appointed Northern Regional Officer, has now changed his job to become Warden of Scalesceugh Hall in Carlisle. His wife will be Matron. The centre has attracted Col. Harvey Williams because he will be dealing with handicapped people personally rather than on paper. Also, as an engineer, he feels he will be able to adapt various workshop instruments and help develop independence among some of the residents.

'Apart from the indoor work centre where the residents will be able to do whatever industrial work I can get for them, they have a horse and cart, pigs, chickens, ducks and gardens with green-houses', he said.

Bath Day Centre

A £17,000 DAY CENTRE for thirty spastic children has just been completed at Bath. It is in the grounds of Manor Hospital,

and views . .

Coombe Park, and will cater for children aged 2 to 7.

The main capital cost of the centre has been provided by The Spastics Society but £2,000 of it was contributed by the Bath and District Spastics Society. At a wine and cheese party on December 20th, a cheque for this amount was handed over by Brig. Mossman, the local group Chairman, to Mr. Peter Pope, West Regional Officer.

After 1969/70, running costs will be shared by the South Western Regional Hospital Board and the Bath and District Spastics Society. The Spastics Society will meet the Hospital Board's share of the cost—amounting to £8,000—for the next two years.

Disabled Persons' Guide to Cambridge

THIS GUIDE which has been prepared by Joan Copp is packed with useful information about the city of Cambridge. It provides a comprehensive list of facilities such as pubs, toilets, eating places, shops and public services which are accessible to the disabled. Suitability for wheelchairs is indicated where appropriate.

For most visitors to Cambridge the Colleges are the main attraction and a list of these is given, with comments on parking facilities, height of steps, etc. The guide offers a word of warning to those seeking accommodation, however—only two hotels were found to be suitable for wheelchair users. The guide ends with a useful map of the city and offers extremely good value for 2s.

Copies may be obtained from:

Public Health Dept., Kett House, Station Road, Cambridge, at a cost of 2s. 6d. (including postage).

Snowbound at Hamilton House

THE LAST SNOWFALL BUT ONE at Brighton successfully marooned 21 children at the Hamilton House Centre in Hove.

Emergency measures were taken however, and with the help of blankets borrowed from the Red Cross they were all put up over night on day beds and even on the floor. Thirteen parents, the staff and one father who had come to collect and could not get away, also roughed it

news and views . . . news and views

for the night, but the general verdict was that it was as much fun as the Christmas Party!

The Chairman's Son gets into Oxford

NEW COLLEGE OXFORD, will be taking in its first spastic student in October, Graham Burn, the youngest of Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Burn's three sons.

He had already taken 'A' and 'S' levels at Thomas Delarue, and since leaving last summer has been at Whitgift, the local day Public School, studying particularly, Latin, which is still a required subject.

Mrs. Burn advertised locally for someone to help Graham write his essays in preparation for his entrance exam, and was overwhelmed with offers of help.

Already a contributor to SPASTICS NEWS, we look forward to further bulletins from his pen of life at Oxford, where he will be studying Politics, Philosophy and Economics.

Congratulations, Graham!

Primate is President

THE ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY, Dr. Michael Ramsey, has consented to become President of the Canterbury and East Kent Spastics Society. He is, of course, one of the Society's distinguished patrons already.

Friends of Ingfield Launched

A NEW GROUP, calling itself *'The Friends of Ingfield'*, was launched just before Christmas. A committee has been formed, with Mr. J. H. Coomber as Chairman, Mrs. Coomber as Treasurer and Mrs. W. Stokes as Secretary.

In a letter distributed among guests at the children's concert, Mr. Coomber said, 'It has been felt for some time that, tucked away as it is in the depths of Sussex, Ingfield Manor School remains unknown locally. The fees for each child are paid by their own local authority, but there is a grave deficit which has to be met by The Spastics Society which originally set up the school. A group of

friends of the school have joined together and formed a committee to help the school in every way'.

Gathering Winter Fuel

THE ARRIVAL OF THE COLD WEATHER was welcomed this year by the Ipswich and East Suffolk Spastics Society. In an effort to make their Ipswich workshop pay its way, the Group has hit upon an idea which has resulted in a trade boom for its nine spastic employees. They have gone into the firewood business and with the help of a £450 firewood-cutting machine are now supplying about a hundred shops all over Suffolk.

The wood is packed into small carrier bags as an added attraction to the customer and the workshop has been getting more orders than it can cope with. Employees at the workshop also do printing and fill bottles of detergent and disinfectant. The Group has a high rehabilitation record and many former employees of the workshop are now holding skilled jobs in industry.



A darts team from Maindy Hotel, Cardiff, recently organised a fancy dress walk on behalf of the Cardiff Spastics Society. The team, shown setting out, made collections for the Society at the public houses en route

(Courtesy: Western Mail & Echo)

news and views . . . news and vie

Bolton Drama Project

THE CURTAIN RISES this month on an exciting experiment in Bolton—a drama course for the physically handicapped. A dozen children, most of them Scouts, from the Birtenshaw Hall School for Spastics, have started a ten-week improvisation session at the Octagon Theatre.

The group will meet once a week for an hour's drama under the expert guidance of Studio Director, Mr. George Rawlins. 'I believe this is a unique venture in provincial theatre and underlines the strong links with the community and the world of education which the Octagon is trying to forge', said Mr. Rawlins.

Leader of the project on the Scouting side, is Mr. Alan Percival, Assistant County Commissioner responsible for the care of handicapped children. 'We want these children to live normal lives as far as is humanly possible. With training, this should unlock something in their minds to help their freedom of expression', he said.

The course will place particular emphasis on colour and music and the Birtenshaw group may be able to put on a show at the Saturday morning children's theatre.

Gift from 'Mr. Gonzales'

DURING REHEARSALS for 'Cinderella' at the Coventry Theatre, 'Mr. Pastry' (Richard Hearne) received a £2,000 cheque towards his swimming pool campaign for spastic children. He said the donation had come from a woman who wished to remain anonymous. In a letter to Mr. Hearne, she said: 'You can say it came from Mr. Gonzales. He was my dog and he loved children, especially small ones'.

Mr. Hearne said, 'This has knocked me flat. I have eleven projects going at the moment, and I will tell the lady that her donation will be spread over all of them. As a result of her generosity, two pools can now be completed and the remaining nine will have a boost'.

By the end of the summer Mr. Hearne hopes to have raised £100,000 to complete the projects. It is really amazing how Mr. Hearne raises all this money single-handed.

Christmas Shopping Spree

IN MANY DIFFERENT parts of the country, shops set aside one evening before Christmas so that disabled people could shop in comfort. At Bearman's of Leytonstone it was a very well organised affair, with Scout volunteers to carry wheelchairs up and down the escalators and free cups of tea and biscuits all round. At Cambridge, a party of twenty-three children from Meldreth joined other disabled shoppers at Marks and Spencer, Laurie and McConnell and Woolworths. These three stores kept open until 7.30 p.m. one evening under a scheme sponsored by the local Rotary Club, who arranged transport for fifty shoppers.

Woolworths and British Homes Stores opened for 2½ hours for disabled people in Hull, while the same service was offered by Woolworths' branches in Chester and Birmingham. In Brighton, forty spastics had Boots all to themselves for an hour.

In most cases, the shop assistants voluntarily gave up their free time to serve the disabled customers—a very generous gesture at what must have been an exhausting time of year for them.

Abbey Prayers

SPECIAL PRAYERS were offered for spastics during Matins on Christmas Eve at Westminster Abbey. Proceeds from the collection at the service were given to The Spastics Society. The Receiver-General of the Abbey, Mr. W. R. Pullen, has also notified us that the proceeds of Evensong on December 22nd, 1968, are to be donated to the Society too. We are honoured and grateful for this act of Christian charity.

Christmas Cruise

TWO TEENAGE SPASTIC GIRLS, Valentina Stencenko and Eileen Tuckey, both 18, spent Christmas in the Holy Land because holidaymakers on a Christmas cruise on the SS. *Nevasa* last year collected enough money to pay for one girl and the British India Steamship Company which owns the liner, donated the other fare.

The girls flew from Gatwick to Venice on December 16th to join the *Nevasa* which called at Izmar, Famagusta, Haifa

and Tangier before returning to Southampton on January 3rd.

Valentina lives at the Thornton Heath Hostel and Eileen in Wimbledon.

They Met at Sherrards

ANDREW MAYNARD (20) of Folkestone in Kent, and Myfanwy Lewis (20), of Newport, Monmouth, have announced their engagement. They met at Sherrards Training Centre, in Herts.

Myfanwy's father is on the Executive Committee of the Monmouthshire Society and does a lot of work raising money, and her brother is Chairman of the Newport Committee.

Andrew is employed as a joiner, and Myfanwy has just started a job with a Newport firm.

Five Sisters

AN 82-YEAR-OLD CORRESPONDENT of the *Surrey Mirror*, 'Mr. Crossroads', who sells Spastics Cards in his area was delighted when five young friends of his, all sisters, Marion, Susan, Patricia, Jacqueline and Helen, aged from 5 to 16, volunteered spontaneously to go carol-singing for spastics.

They got the idea from seeing a model windmill in his house, with a slot in the roof for donations, and after their evening of minstrelsy confined to the forty-odd houses in their own road, they had collected 2 gns.

Tees-side beats Coupon Ban

DESPITE THE GOVERNMENT's proposed ban on cigarette coupons mentioned in SPASTICS NEWS for December, the Tees-side Spastics Society has achieved its new Land-Rover after only three months. The Group aimed to collect 500,000 coupons, but Mr. Fred Garland, Workshop Manager, said recently that they were being allowed to take delivery of the vehicle in advance of having the full number of coupons.

Please Note

Both the London Regional Officers, Mr. N. J. Goldfrap (North) and Mr. Alan Henderson (South), are now located at 12 Park Crescent, W.1. Tel.: No. 636-5020.

Cycling Across Europe

An account of the adventures of a 21-year-old hemiplegic student

DESPITE QUITE A SEVERE left hemiplegia, Richard Button, aged 21, of Bristol, has cycled many hundreds of miles around Europe in the past few years, staying at Youth Hostels on the way.

Richard says that he has always been keen on cycling and in 1963 he bought a lightweight sports bike which was adapted to suit his disability by the addition of straight handlebars, a handlebar gear change and toe-clips to prevent his left foot from slipping off the pedal.

He decided to join the Y.H.A. after seeing a film at his church youth club, and started his hostelling days with a weekend trip to Oxford. This was followed by a four-day cycling tour of Wales and a month or so later he decided to try the Continent, which he had never visited before. He crossed by sea from Dover to Ostend, spent two nights in the modern hostel at Bruges and then went on to Ghent and Antwerp. Crossing into Holland he was caught in a thunderstorm and lost his way, but was taken in by a kindly Dutch couple, given tea and set on the right road for the hostel at

Bergen-op-Zoom. Island-hopping across the Zuyder Zee, he found that one hostel was full up and, having missed the last ferry to the mainland, he had to spend the night in a bus shelter.

Undeterred, he pressed on to Dordrecht, The Hague, and Utrecht, with a brief stop at Gouda, famous for its cheese, where he saw a street organ festival in progress. He spent three nights near Amsterdam where he visited a brewery and slept off the effects of too many free samples on a sofa in the Natural History Museum! From here he went to Arnhem and the next day crossed into Germany. He cycled on to Luxemburg, where he visited the famous radio station. Returning to Belgium, he went by train to Brussels then cycled the last lap to Ostend for the Dover ferry. Altogether he had cycled about 600 miles in a month.

The following year Richard went to Denmark and Sweden for a fortnight, clocking up about 400 miles. In Denmark he had his one and only accident but fortunately escaped injury and was able to replace a buckled wheel. Richard says

the Youth Hostel in Stockholm was attractively housed in a converted sailing ship. In 1966, he hitch-hiked for a change, visiting Belgium and Holland once more.

At Easter last year he cycled around Devon and Cornwall and was in time to see the wreck of the *Torrey Canyon* being bombed. That summer he travelled further afield than ever before. Beginning with some of the First World War battlefields in Northern France and Belgium, he passed through Luxemburg once more and then cycled right across Germany into Austria. When he reached Salzburg, the festival was in progress. Here he met an American who had lost his shoes from his car, so Richard lent him a pair for attending a performance of 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'. 'I can boast that my shoes have been to Salzburg Festival, even if I have not', says Richard.

On one occasion, when Richard stopped at a café by the Danube, he was treated to a free meal of ice-cream, cake and wine by the proprietress—'Just one more example of the hospitality shown to me on my travels'.

Having cycled about a thousand miles in three weeks, he stayed in Vienna for five days, before returning home by train.

Richard sums up his experiences with the words:

'I have certainly met interesting people, learnt a great deal about the various countries I have visited and generally gained a lot from these holidays'.

News from the Nottingham and District 'Friends of Spastics' Group

THE NOTTINGHAM GROUP held its autumn dance at the Commodore Rooms, Nottingham, in November. Approximately fifty adult spastics attended this dance as guests of the Group, and the organisers made a profit of £160.

In December eighty adult spastic members and some guests attended a party at the Memorial Hall, West Bridgford, where suitably adapted games and entertainment were enjoyed following tea. Each adult spastic member of the Group, including those in centres or hospitals, received a gift voucher of £1 to spend as they wished.

Christmas donations amounting to over £150 were given to Spastic Society centres, schools, or Local Authority

schools, and hospitals providing a service to Nottingham spastics.

Over sixty children, accompanied by a parent, attended a New Year party in early January at the Commodore Rooms, where they enjoyed tea and entertainment followed by a visit from Father Christmas who gave each child a toy and a Christmas stocking. Over two hundred children received a gift voucher for ten shillings prior to Christmas.

At the next Group meeting in February, a film of the cruise organised by The Spastics Society last year will be shown by a member, followed by a film of the Nottingham Power Boat and Ski Club's effort last year, from which the Group received a considerable sum.

FIFTEEN SEVERELY HANDICAPPED CHILDREN

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42 Portland Street,
Hereford. (Phone 66434)

The John F.



After-school play activities such as cycling help strengthen weak muscles and encourage the children to become more independent

RECENT YEARS HAVE SEEN great strides made in the field of rehabilitation of the physically handicapped and in the provision of vocational facilities for these less fortunate members of the community. Hong Kong has not lagged behind in this field and 1967 witnessed the opening of a fully-equipped residential centre for spastic children—the first and only of its kind in Hong Kong. This centre is named after the late president, John F. Kennedy, and was donated by the World Rehabilitation Fund Inc. of United States of America. It was officially opened by His Excellency, Sir David Trench, Governor of Hong Kong, on 2nd March, 1967.

The centre is under the management of the Hong Kong Red Cross Society. For the first year of its operation, it has been financed with funds from the World Rehabilitation Fund Inc. In the years to follow the centre will be subsidised by the Hong Kong Government although a nominal fee is payable by children whose family can afford to do so.

The centre consists of an administrative and therapy block, a teaching block and dormitories. The classrooms are designed to take ten pupils each. The bedrooms, holding ten children in each, are provided with separate toilet facilities with adjacent accommodation for the housemothers. The centre caters for a maximum of 80 pupils—60 residential and 20 day pupils of both sexes, between the ages of four to fourteen. In addition to providing a suitable general education, the centre offers medical care and therapy.

Although it has only been in operation

for a bare six months, the centre already has 48 children—42 residential and 6 day pupils. Of this number, 27 are boys and 21 girls, all in the age range of 4 to 13. Recruitment is largely from the poorer section of the community of the whole of Hong Kong including the New Territories. The centre has a staff of 31. It consists of a principal, Miss M. Fang who underwent special education for the physically handicapped at the London University; a matron, Miss C. Lau, a state registered nurse, trained at the South London Hospital; five teachers; three therapists; one social worker; four housemothers, one with nursing qualification; and the rest are clerical and menial staff.

A recent conservative estimate puts the number of spastic children in Hong Kong between 1100 and 2200 between the ages of 4-15 years. In view of the very limited facilities as yet available for these handicapped children, one of the aims of the centre is to prepare the more intelligent and less physically handicapped children to attend normal school. Towards this end, intensive physiotherapy is being provided at the centre. For the more severely handicapped cases, the centre tries to provide a general basic education as well as to meet the social and psychological needs of the individual child.

The education programme has its focus on providing as much individual attention as possible so that each child may be allowed to progress at his or her own pace. Hence classes, of which there are five, are limited to ten children each, grouped according to age and aptitude.

Some of the housemothers also act as assistants during lessons. The school hours are from 9.0 a.m. to 3.30 p.m. The time for therapy is arranged in a manner that at least two study periods of the day are completely uninterrupted. Since more than half of the pupils suffer from speech defects, the school curriculum includes oral lessons when children are encouraged to converse freely about topic events and their daily activities. There is a weekly assembly of the children, divided into two age groups. The centre also has plans for activities outside the school in the near future when it receives a Sunshine Coach donated by the International Variety Club of England.

The physiotherapy department consists of a large treatment room with an indoor swimming-pool adjacent. It is staffed by two Australian physiotherapists, Miss Jan Finlayson, who joined the centre in March, 1967, and Miss Janet Clarke, who has been at Cheyne Walk for two years and arrived in September, 1967.

Treated in Groups

The less handicapped children are treated in groups of three or six according to their type of cerebral palsy leaving more time for individual treatments with the more severely handicapped.

Of the 48 children at the centre, 18 are athetoids, 18 are spastics including quadriplegias, triplegias, paraplegias, eight spastic hemiplegias and four ataxic children.

The children are treated during their school day in half-hour periods corresponding with class timetables. After school the physiotherapists' timetable is adapted to play activities such as swimming, ball games, riding bikes and sand and water games, all aimed at the increased independence and more normal functioning of the child as a whole.

Occupational therapy aims at specific individual treatment through play group therapy, and at helping the children towards self independence in daily life. The staff consists of one occupational therapist from England, Miss Rosemary Jenkin, M.A.O.T., who spent two years previously at the centre for spastic children, Cheyne Walk London, and Miss Chau, a Chinese craft instructress.

Individual treatment sessions are given

Kennedy Centre in Hong Kong

by the occupational therapist. Athetoids and ataxics aim for co-ordination and control of balance, hemiplegics for spontaneous two-handed activities and strengthening the weaker limb, quadriplegics for upper limb dexterity and standing tolerance. Spatial abilities, perceptual and visuomotor disturbances and power of concentration are also observed.

The children are taught to dress and feed themselves, to wash and toilet themselves—the co-operation with the house-mothers and the parents is very necessary so they are stimulated but not over-protected. The older children are taken into the town to encourage normal integration with society. They learn carpentry, sewing and other crafts and we hope to start cookery classes shortly. The younger ones enjoy group play therapy.

Medical care at the centre is provided by an honorary paediatrician and an orthopaedic surgeon who make their visits weekly. A consultant in psychology is also being provided by the University of Hong Kong.

In the field of speech therapy, the centre has been able to rely on the services of a fully qualified and experienced speech therapist from the Government Education Department, Special Education Section, whilst its own recruit is still under training in Australia.

To foster a strong school/home relationship and to maintain the ties between parents and children, all resident pupils are required to return home for week-ends and on holidays, with transport provided by the centre. On admission, parents of the children are invited to visit and inspect the facilities available at the Centre. Meetings between the staff and parents are held both at the beginning and end of term, with more frequent meetings in the interval if possible. The response has been most encouraging. During the last summer holiday, the therapists, social worker and other members of the staff visited the children at their homes, some of which are in the remote areas of Hong Kong. This gives the school staff a better understanding of the child's home background and also

provides a good opportunity for the parents to be acquainted with various therapy techniques which could be applied at home.

The staff of the centre is of various nationalities but despite the language barrier, team work has been excellent and this has ensured the smooth functioning of the centre. The centre has also been fortunate in the active help it has received from other international spastic associations in the way of informative literature and films. In this connection, the Spastics Society in London, the World Rehabilitation Fund and the American Cerebral Palsy Association have been particularly helpful. The centre is also grateful to C.A.R.E. for its regular gifts of food supplements and to a number of other organisations for their generous contributions. To the World Rehabilitation Fund Inc., of course, the centre owes its very existence. It is to be hoped that the John F. Kennedy Centre will be but the forerunner of better and improved services for the spastic children of the Hong Kong community.



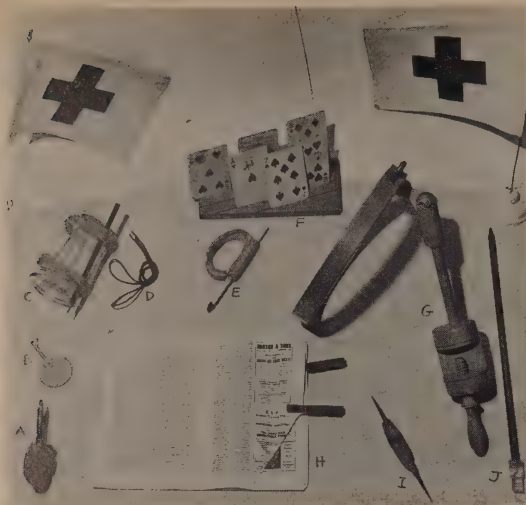
The Kennedy Centre caters for children with severe motor difficulties but with a fairly high I.Q. Those with a lower I.Q. attend a centre sponsored by the Spastic Association of Hong Kong and after six months may apply for re-assessment for the Kennedy Centre



Red Cross Aids for Everyday Living

by MOLLY E. SABEL

Branch Officer, Devon Red Cross



Picture 1

THE RED CROSS helps people in a number of ways, and one of the most useful of these is the supplying and devising of special aids for spastic men and women to overcome their difficulties in daily living. Many of these aids are very simple, cost only a few shillings and can often be made by friends or relatives.

The first thing that anyone wants to do on their own is to drink by themselves at their own pace. Nothing is more infuriating than to have a scalding hot drink poured down your throat too fast; or so slowly that you cannot get a proper mouthful.

To overcome this, buy a rubber bicycle handle, get someone to fill it with a piece of wood. Bore a hole through the centre of the wood and push a washable plastic drinking tube through the hole. Even the most spastic hand can control this.

To go a step further, get a solid mug and a 9in. by 1in. square of wood. Cut out a circle the size of the mug in the centre of the wood, place the mug in the hole and the wood will keep it steady. With a little practice and perhaps a steadying hand, the combination of the bicycle-handle-tube and the mug in the wooden stand, practically everyone can drink on their own. (Figs. A and B, Picture 2.)

To prevent your mug, cup and saucer or plate slipping about on the table, stand them on a piece of foam rubber from Woolworths, this will help to hold them steady.

Aids to Eating

Spoons, forks and knives which are difficult to hold, can also be fixed inside a bicycle handle holder. The Red Cross has many spoons, forks and knives with different handles, to fit hands with different disabilities. The end of a spoon can be covered in cotton wool and then bound round with washable adhesive tape, to give a soft grip; or stuck into a lump of plasterine, which will gradually mould itself to the hand of the user (Figs. E and H, Picture 2.)

For dressing, elastic shoelaces which do not need tying, are a great boon, and an edging of self adhesive 'Velcro', does away with fiddly little buttons.

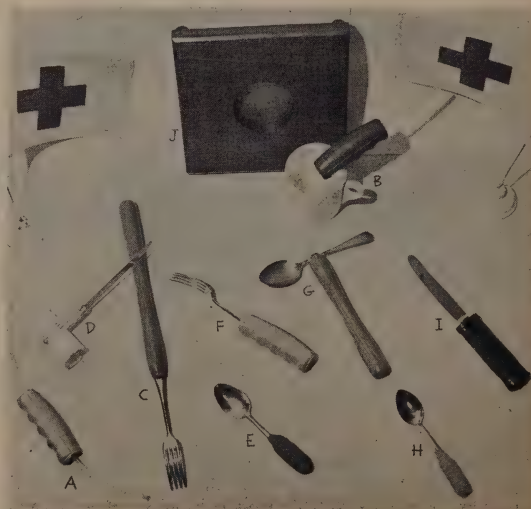
Zips can be sewn along the underarm seams of sleeves and down the side seams of dresses and jackets, allowing the garment to be placed over the head and just laid on the

shoulders thus avoiding the awful struggle of getting into sleeves and through armholes.

Writing is a difficult problem for spastic men and women, but place a piece of blotting paper under the writing paper and with a bulldog clip fasten it to a board and this will hold it still. Pencils, pens and all kind of tools can again be stuck in plasticine or covered with adhesive tape, or to make a really big object to hold, strap a pencil to the side of a jam jar, and it is quite possible to write or even draw with this. (Fig. C, Picture 1.)

For those who cannot grip anything, make a circle of lin. elastic to fit over the hand, with an open-ended pocket in the elastic, through which a pencil is pushed and will be held in place. (Fig. E, Picture 1.)

At the side of Fig. J, Picture 1, there is a pencil fixed in a perspex mouthpiece, this is moulded and grooved for the teeth so that it can be held and controlled with the mouth.



Picture 2

A small key is difficult to manipulate, but this can be screwed to a circle of wood or metal, making it bigger to hold. (Fig. B, Picture 1.) Typing can be done by holding sticks (see right-hand illustration). Clothes pegs on the pages of a book are much easier to catch hold of than a single sheet of paper (Fig. H, Picture 1), and an electric paper turner will turn the pages by the pressure of chin, arm or foot.

There are many aids for people with the control of only one hand, such as the slotted wooden card stand and the embroidery frame which screws to the table and tilts at any angle. (Figs. F and G, Picture 1.)

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Committeespeak

by ELEANOR C. TIMBRES and ANDREW CAVE

(reproduced by courtesy of The Guardian)

WE HAD TO LEARN the language. Long accustomed to jobs in autocratic trades where the nearest you came to discussion was arguing with the boss, we found ourselves pitched in middle life into work that called for many hours of sitting on committees. At first we sat bemused: could people really be saying what they appeared to mean? In the end we tumbled to it. Committee work has its own pace, technique, tactics: if you are to master them you must first become fluent in Committeespeak.

Committeespeak isn't just a set of hypocritical wraps for mean thoughts. It's just that most people wouldn't dream of saying before seventeen other people what they would cheerfully say face to face. The mere fact of sitting round a table in such numbers brings with it a Congress of Vienna stiffness. Professional men of notorious open-heartedness and probity become pocket Metternichs. Women who in private tell each other everything, purse their lips like a Transylvanian countess with a secret message in her fan. The interests they represent may not have much at stake. The real business may be settled later on over drink in the bar. Yet they somehow feel inhibited. The collectivity has them in its grip.

Afterwards they will probably all grumble to their husbands or wives, or even to each other, that committees are dreadful and why can't people come to the point, anyhow? It's no use. The

committee, as Parkinson has shown, is a little subculture with its own uncoded, inescapable ritual, its own laws and taboos. Avoid them who dares.

For those who haven't yet taken the plunge, or who have but haven't quite tuned their internal simultaneous translation equipment, we provide the following simple glossary of Committeespeak. Remember—it won't just be you who'll be aware of the inward significance of what you say. Everyone else will. *That's the beauty of the thing.*

'I am not absolutely happy about...'
I'm against it.

'Are we quite sure that we want to...'
It stinks.

'I would just like to point out, so as to get the record straight...'
See what you've done to my brilliant idea.

'We have a pretty heavy agenda, I hope we can avoid straying too far from the point...'
I have a train to catch.

'I'm not quite as well briefed as I should have liked...'
I have just this minute looked at the agenda for the first time.

'As we have heard in great detail from Mrs. X...'
Haven't we just?

'I'm afraid, Mr. Y, that was settled at our last meeting...'
Come only every third meeting, will you?

'I'm not sure what other people think, but...'
Now who could be dense enough not to agree?

'Am I alone in thinking that...'
I can't be!

'I hope someone will correct me if I am wrong...'
Try it and see.

'There seems to be some confusion about...'
You have missed the point, haven't you?

'I may be stupid, but...'
Ho! Ho!
'As I understand it then...'
How many more angels on this pinhead?

'If I may take the liberty, I think perhaps what Mrs. A meant to say was...'
Someone's got to make sense of her English, not to mention her logic.

'That is an interesting/valid/thought-provoking/refreshing point of view...'
Beside the point/boring eccentric/juvenile.

'We clearly need time to consider this...'
I must get home and sort out what it is you're putting over on me.

'Would someone care to volunteer to...'
Speak up, deadheads!

'Shall we take a vote...?'
I'm starving!

'Are we all agreed then...?'
'Shut up!'

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

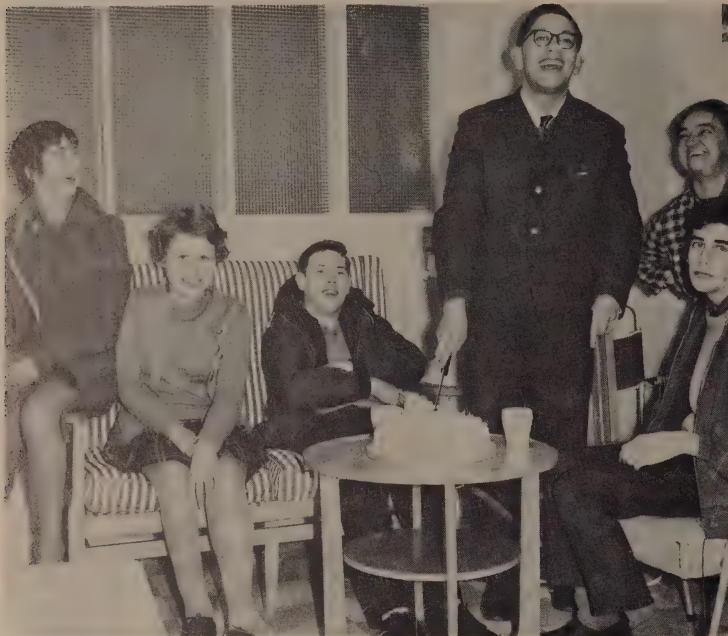
**Hemel Hempstead Concert,
February 11th, 1968**

Roy Castle, Leslie Crowther, Shirley Burnett, Daisy May and Saveen, Derek Nimmo, and Don Moss, are taking part in a concert at the Pavilion, Hemel Hempstead, in aid of the local Handicapped Workshop and S.O.S. funds.

A Week to Remember

by THERESE APPLEBY

(Reproduced by courtesy of the Brighton Evening Argus)



Susan Nicholson, Joyce Readman, Leonard Shepherd, May Howes and Richard Norton look on as Brian Tanner cuts his cake

THEY WERE GAY, they were lively and they were happy. No one wanted to go home. They were young people between 16 and 28, having a working holiday at Colwall Court, Bexhill, and enjoying every minute of it.

The weekend I spent with them was a remarkable one because I was the only non-handicapped person there; all the others were spastics.

Bill Hargreaves, the leader, slid across the room on his unreliable legs as he came to greet me, saying: 'I did that on Margate seafront once and fell down flat. Two ladies passed me by and one said to the other: "We've got one of those in our street".'

He, like his five assistants, does a full-time job that would otherwise be undertaken by people without a disability. But the young people they were supervising were all unemployed—out of 18 only one had ever had a job and she was fired after three months because she was too slow. She only has one perfect hand, the other is useless.

The stigma attached to being a spastic is still strong—they have to be better

than the next person to get and hold down a job.

The object of this working holiday, given free by The Spastics Society, was to teach these young men and women that many things they thought were impossible, could be achieved. With other spastics to show them the way, their courage and their hopes had risen during the week.

They had to learn to cook since they had to prepare their own meals. And Marianne, the prettiest girl I've seen for a long time, showed them how, despite having paralysis in one hand and leg. At home none of them had ever been allowed to touch a saucepan or boil a kettle in case they burned themselves.

It was Brian's 16th birthday the day I arrived and between them they made a massive cake that was as good as any I'd tasted.

Pamela, who works as an assistant club organiser and does a lot of public speaking, taught them how to peel potatoes and prepare vegetables. And Robena, a social worker, supervised the washing up, another job mums won't allow spastics to do in case they break the crockery. Don't we all break cups and plates occasionally?

They made beds, despite their wobbly legs, scrubbed floors, polished and cleaned, learning all the time how to do each job properly because at home they only do light dusting and Hoovering. And mum doesn't expect that done well.

They had a group rota system so that each group took it in turns to complete the different chores. They had to do it well because it was expected of them. This was evident from the loud roars that penetrated the kitchen because Sunday lunch was 20 minutes late!

But it wasn't all work. There was swimming and shopping and one evening they went to the theatre. Alone. No supervisors allowed. They booked their own tickets and were told what number bus to take and it was up to them. This holiday was the first time the majority had ever been out without one of their family.

They will remember this week. For they have learned, by living with others with similar disabilities who have made successes of their lives, they are capable of behaving as non-handicapped people do. And they will know that they themselves are capable of many things and perhaps reach out to perform more.



Valerie Osborne watches closely as Marianne West pours in one of the ingredients for the cake

Party Time at Wakes Hall

RECENTLY, MANY MEMBERS of the S.O.S. visited Wakes Hall for lunch. They left Park Crescent by coach, the party including: Avril Angers, Jean Aubrey, Leslie Crowther and his wife, Derek de Marney, John Horsley, David Jacobs, James Loring, Vera Lynn, the Marchioness of Tavistock, Thelma Ruby, Gaie Sharples, Sheila Stapleton, and Sheila Stewart. Immediately on arrival at Wakes Hall, they went to see the extension to the workshop which had only been completed the previous day. Waiting to show them round were all the residents who are delighted with the extra space which is now available. They can now look forward to undertaking even more interesting contract work.

The residents at Wakes Hall had invited a number of their local friends to meet the members of the S.O.S. over lunch. Mr. and Mrs. Chapleo had prepared a fabulous buffet—most of the food having been donated by local supporters. After a leisurely meal, everyone gathered round the piano for a noisy sing-song. After a quick cup of tea the party climbed back in the coach hoping for a quick journey to London to be at their theatres in good time for evening performances. The journey turned out to be much slower than anticipated so at Gants Hill some of the members decided to leave the coach and catch a tube. When the coach had travelled about three miles on the journey, Jean Crowther suddenly said, 'Where is Leslie?' It was then realised that he must have got off the coach to say 'goodbye'. At this stage there seemed no point in going back as so much time had elapsed he would obviously be on the tube.

I heard the other side of the story from David Jacobs that evening. He told me that Leslie stood on the pavement gaily wishing everyone a happy New Year when the alarm was given that the bus had gone! It was seen in the distance stopped at a red traffic light. Leslie immediately ran and ran and almost caught it when the lights changed. This performance was repeated again some further 200 yards down the road and he was encouraged by the loud cheers of the members of the S.O.S. party. Eventually Leslie realised that he would have to catch the tube, so a hilarious party boarded a central line train. Members of the travelling public benefited by Leslie's misadventure for they were entertained to a gay impromptu concert. Sorry Leslie, we do not usually abandon our members. . . . !



(Courtesy: Manchester Evening News)
Margaret Young, the winner, with runners-up Christine Lewis (left) and Veronica White (right), after the judging of a beauty competition held during a grand fashion ball in aid of the Manchester and District Spastics Society recently

New Project to Help Hampshire Spastics

WORK STARTS SHORTLY on extensions to the Hampshire County Council Work Centre for the Handicapped at Basingstoke. The Lord-Lieutenant of Hampshire, Lord Ashburton, cut the first turf on the site at St. Audley's Close, on Friday, January 19th.

The extensions are financed by three local groups affiliated to The Spastics Society—the Andover and District Spastics Society, Winchester and District Spastics Society and Basingstoke and District Spastics Society.

The groups recently launched an appeal in North Hampshire to raise the £36,000 cost of the building within a year. So far they have raised about £6,000.

The extensions will provide employment for 60 handicapped men and women, many of whom are spastics, and work should be finished by early autumn.

The present building accommodates only 20.

The new building will include a large work area, dining room, office, kitchen, storage rooms and additional toilet facilities.

The project is not only an example of Group co-operation, but also of happy liaison with Hampshire County Council, who are to maintain and administer the new building when it is completed.

A hostel to accommodate 25 of the spastic men and women who will work at the centre will be built shortly in Basingstoke by the national Spastics Society.

After the ceremony a miniature silver spade was presented to Lord Ashburton, who is President of the appeal fund. The Salisbury and District Groups as their contribution, have sponsored the printing of an attractive brochure.



'The Burvill' Car Top Battery-operated Hoist was demonstrated to the Joint Committee on Mobility for the Disabled by Mr. Haynes, Director of Safa-Baths Ltd., Dorking, Surrey. Mr. Haynes was the inventor of the Safa-Bath aid for children and has been so impressed with the response to his first invention by the parents of handicapped children, that he has decided to market this hoist for the disabled. Selling at £85 0s. 0d., it is almost half the cost of the American equivalent. It has been tested to carry 28 stone and prototypes have been in use for several trouble-free years.

For more information on these appliances or any others, please write to me, giving as much detail as possible.

N. D. B. Elwes,
Aids and Appliances,
The Spastics Society,
12 Park Crescent,
London, W.1

The Bedford Walking Frame (pictured far right) designed by Bernard Cashman, F.R.C.S., of Bedford General Hospital, has been assessed by The White Lodge, Chertsey, and the Centre for Spastic Children, 61 Cheyne Walk. Miss Brunning, Superintendent Physiotherapist writes:—

'This walker provides good protection should the child fall whilst using it, as the hand rail is well padded and the canvas seat is suspended by elastic straps. However, as it moves very easily, many children are unable to steady it so that they cannot get into a standing position again, once they have fallen. Therefore, we only found it useful for mentally retarded children, minimally ataxic children and specially selected athetoids. This walker was not the most suitable one for spastic children because the children who were able to use it could also manage a more compact one which is preferable in small homes.'

I shall be passing these comments on to the Manufacturers—Messrs. Ellis Son & Paramore, Spring St. Works, Sheffield 3. We wish to acknowledge the photograph by M. Gurr.

AIDS & APPLIANCES



Also just on the market, the Minor Electric Hoist (pictured right). Light and easily removable from the rail for moving from bedroom to bathroom or anywhere else a hoist is required. It should prove very popular and sells for the same price, £62 and 5s. 6d. per foot of rail not including builder's installing charge.

From Electromed Products, 39 Fair Oak Rd., Bishopstoke, Eastleigh, Hampshire.

EXTRRRR-A!

A new competition magazine for members of the Spastic League Club made its debut in January. Entitled, 'EXTRA', this four-page leaflet will go as a bonus to over 6 million people all over the country six times a year.

The opening issue carries a column by Don Moss on the Pop Scene, a privilege offer of a Prestige wall can-opener, and a competition for a caption to a cartoon by Rolf Harris with handsome prizes totalling £2,750.

The youngsters have not been forgotten either, for them there is a competition naming dogs of various breeds. Boxer Billy Walker's favourite recipe, and a fashion article by the Queen's dress-maker, Norman Hartnell.

Perhaps the item which will interest most readers is an article by Aubrey Morris, Editor of 'Competitors' Journal' on 'How to Win'.

Altogether, something for everyone, and all free!



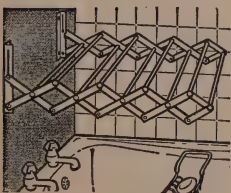
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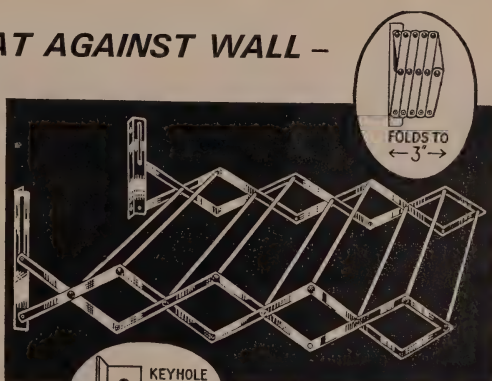
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Letters to the Editor

GEORGE AND FREDA

Dear Editor,

After reading the article about the marriage of the two rather heavily handicapped spastics in the January issue of 'Spastics News', I am moved to tell you of our son, George, who has been spastic from birth, and has just recently married a spastic girl, whom he met through the Leicester Adult Club. They have been friends since the start of the Club, eight years ago, but marriage was out of the question—as George had no reliable job. Nevertheless, in January, 1966, he had an interview at Park Crescent and afterwards a week near Christchurch, and from there went to the Government Training Centre at Leicester, where he eventually got a permanent job in the canteen. He has been there now for over eighteen months and is a very happy fellow, thanks to God, and to The Spastics Society, who put him on the right way. But to return to their private lives.

Freda and George decided they would marry and set about finding somewhere to live. After many attempts a very kind gentleman promised them the first terraced house he got on his list, and in August last he brought them their first key.

The family rallied round them and promised to clean and decorate, but in the meantime, another gentleman (who had known George by sight) came forward—full of admiration for their courage and determination, took over the house and modernised it for them adding a bathroom (with safety bars over bath) a hot water system, and completely fitted out the kitchen with sink unit, etc., and a new floor.

We shall never forget his kindness, or ever be able to repay him for all his interest. He introduced them to the Vicar of the Parish and also to the doctor. She has been marvellous to them and looks after their wants regularly.

We were all overwhelmed with the kindness of all people in all walks of life who came with gifts and good wishes. We cannot believe it, it has all been so wonderful. They had a marvellous wedding service with a very understanding Vicar, three spastic bridesmaids, one in a wheelchair, and George had a spastic boy-friend as best man; God has blessed them indeed.

A WONDERFUL FIVER

Dear Sirs,

I have great pleasure in sending you a gift of £5. This has been my effort for a year. I've made jars of marmalade, plum jam, gooseberry, black currant, raspberry. Apple jelly, red currant jelly, orange, grapefruit, pineapple, ginger marrow, marrow jam. Pickled onions, piccali, apple chutney, marrow chutney, green tomato chutney, and beetroot chutney, mint sauce and horse-radish cream. I only charge 2s. a jar for a pound jar because a great many of the people who buy them are old people from Darby and Joan Clubs.

You can guess how many jars have to be made to make a £ at 2d. profit a jar—hundreds. I am an old age pensioner myself, 73 to be correct and I suffer from osteo-arthritis but I feel I must do something to help, though it is not as much as I should like to have sent, but I also gave £5 to an

Old People's Club to help give them a Christmas dinner so I do hope my effort will help your spastics a little.

I remain, yours truly, G. M. Jaycock (Mrs.), 8 Almond Road, Burnham, Bucks.

LIVING CAN BE TAXING ENOUGH!

Dear Editor,

We lightly handicapped spastics, obsessed with our own small problems, sometimes tend to forget how much worse off we might be. This lesson was sharply brought home to me during the recent cold spell when hard-packed snow made the London pavements like a skating-rink. Under normal circumstances I can, fortunately, walk fairly well but those five days made me realise what the less ambulant have to contend with.

I ached in every muscle from the effort of watching where I put my feet and trying not fall over. My social life went by the board—just getting to and from work was exhausting enough—and



They are very happy and understand each other's failings, and have nice times with other spastics, who are made welcome at their home. It is good to see such comradeship.

I hope this story will interest your readers, and give lots of hope and encouragement to others, should you see fit to publish it. Yours truly, E. BRYANT (Mrs.), 15 Main Street, Thurnby, Leicester-shire.

We are very happy to publish such a wonderful story.—Editor.

I crawled into bed about nine o'clock every night to get back my strength ready for the next day.

In future I shall beware of saying that such-and-such a spastic ought to take up some spare-time activity—their energies may already be sufficiently taxed by the ordinary routine of daily life.

Yours sincerely, JOAN MASON, London, S.W.2.

PEN FRIEND WANTED

Dear Editor,

I was mentioned in the Employment column of the January, 1968, issue of SPASTICS NEWS having started a trial period at a wig-making factory in Oulton Broad.

I would be interested to correspond with any other spastics who may be employed in the industry.

My hobbies are photography, collecting records and swimming.

Yours sincerely, COLIN JEFFRIES, 98 Bevan Street, Lowestoft, Suffolk.

BILLIARDS AND SNOOKER ● ● ●

EMPLOYMENT NEWS

1st	Hopkinstown Club, 14 Jenkin St., Pontypridd, S. Wales	J. Gardner and J. Rea
2nd	Pontardulais Cons. Club, St. Michaels Av., Swansea	J. Gardner and J. Rea
6th	Co-op. Sports Club, Green Lane, Middlesbrough	J. Gardner and J. Spencer
7th	Blytholme Club, 38 Yarm Rd., Stockton-on-Tees	J. Gardner and J. Rea
8th	Motor Club, Clarendon Rd., Middlesbrough	J. Gardner and J. Spencer
9th	North Ormesby Inst., North Ormesby, Middlesbrough	J. Gardner and J. Rea
10th	Ellesmere Golf Club, Walkden, nr. Manchester	J. Rea and R. Reardon
10th	Keighley Liberal Club, Scott St., Keighley, Yorks	J. Gardner and J. Spencer
12th	Hemsworth Colly Club, Fitzwilliam, nr. Pontefract	J. Rea and J. Spencer
13th	Burghwallis Village Club, Burghwallis, nr. Doncaster	J. Rea and J. Spencer
14th	Hawthornthwaite & Mytholmroyd Club, Stocks Av., Halifax	J. Spencer
14th	Ivanhoe Social Club, Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Leics.	J. Rea
15th	Pretoria Workmen's Club, South Elmsall, nr. Pontefract	J. Rea and J. Spencer
16th	Vernon Arms Hotel, Vernon St., Stockport	J. Rea and J. Spencer
19th	High Crompton Cons., Wood St., Shaw, Oldham	J. Rea
20th	Whitehills Club, Whitehills, Bordon, Hants.	J. Gardner and J. Rea
21st	Perry St. Club, Knapp Hill House, South Chard, Somerset	J. Gardner and J. Rea
22nd	Crewkerne Cons., Market St., Crewkerne, Somerset	J. Gardner and J. Rea
23rd	Minerva Club, Highweek St., Newton Abbott, Devon	J. Gardner and J. Rea
24th	Caprera Club, 5 Cornwallis St., Plymouth	J. Gardner and J. Rea
26th	Seaton Town Club, Station Rd., Seaton, Devon	J. Gardner and J. Rea
27th	Ringwood Social Club, West St., Ringwood, Hants.	J. Gardner and J. Rea
28th	British Legion Club, High St., Swanage, Dorset	J. Gardner and J. Rea
29th	Town Club, Star St., Ryde, Isle of Wight	J. Gardner and J. Rea

SUSAN BELT from Portfield Gate, has changed her job and is now working as a shorthand typist in the Education Department of the Pembrokeshire County Council.

TERESA FLATMAN from Saxmundham, is doing domestic work locally.

GILLIAN FLENLEY from Lancaster, is employed locally as a packer by Lakeland Laundries.

DAVID GARVIE from Catford, who trained at Sherrards is working as a press operator in the machine shop of Davis Bros. in Nightingale Road, S.E.13.

VICTOR JOHN LLOYD from Slough, has a new job and is working locally as a costing clerk for Messrs. Archers (Printers).

MOLLIE ROBINSON from King's Lynn, is working for Brocks Crystal Palace Fireworks Ltd.

LILIAN SINGLETON from Blackburn, is employed locally.

PATRICIA STYMEST from Maidstone, who trained at Sherrards has commenced employment for Pre-Met Electrical Components Ltd. She is using a light riveting machine.

BRITISH SOCIETY FOR MUSIC THERAPY

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MUSIC THERAPY IN ACTION—1968

A Meeting devoted to music-making by handicapped children and adults

will be held at

St. Michael's School, Graham Terrace, London, S.W.3

on Saturday, 30th March, 1968

10 a.m. — 4.30 p.m.

The Meeting is devised for all persons concerned in the treatment and rehabilitation of children and adults suffering from mental and physical disorder, in hospitals, special schools, rehabilitation centres and social clubs. It is addressed to doctors, psychiatrists, psychologists, therapists, educationists, remedial teachers, nurses, social workers and musicians.

There will be live demonstrations and recordings of therapeutic activities from various types of special schools and hospitals with a linking commentary followed by general discussion.

FEES: 10/- Students in training: 5/-

Enrolment forms and further information to be obtained from: THE CONFERENCE SECRETARY,
BRITISH SOCIETY FOR MUSIC THERAPY,
48 LANCHESTER ROAD,
LONDON, N.6

Please enclose stamped addressed envelope for reply.

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Cumberland, Westmorland and Furness
Spastics Society

Darlington and District Spastics Society

Durham and District Spastics Society

South Shields and District Spastics Society

Sunderland and District Spastics Society

Tees-side Spastics Society

Regional Officer: To be appointed

2 YORKSHIRE REGION

Barnsley and District Association

Bradford and District Branch

Castleford and District Spastics Society

Dewsbury and District Spastics Society

Goole and District Spastics Society

Halifax and District Spastics Society

Huddersfield and District Spastics Society

Hull and District Spastics Society

Leeds and District Spastics Society

Pontefract and District Spastics Association

Rawmarsh and Parkgate Spastics Society

Sheffield and District Spastics Society

York and District Spastics Group

Regional Officer:

Mr. R. J. F. Whyte, Royal Chambers, Station
Parade, Harrogate. Tel. 0423 69655

3 MANCHESTER REGION

Barrow-in-Furness and District Spastic and

Handicapped Children's Society

Blackburn and District Spastics Group

Blackpool and Fylde Spastics Society

Bolton and District Spastics Society

Burnley Area and Rossendale Spastics

Group

Lancaster, Morecambe and District Spastics

Society

Manchester and District Spastics Society

Oldham and District Spastics Society

Preston and District Spastics Group

Rochdale and District Spastics Society

Sale, Altrincham and District Spastics

Society

Stockport, East Cheshire and High Peak

Spastics Society

Urmston and District Group

Wigan and District Spastics Society

Regional Officer:

Mr. D. C. Freemantle, Room 481, 4th Floor,
St. James's Buildings, 89 Oxford Street, Man-
chester 1. Tel. 061 CEN 2088

Regional Social Worker:

Mrs. M. Moncaster, same address

4 MERSEYSIDE & NORTH WALES REGION

Birkenhead Spastic Children's Society

Caernarvonshire Spastics and Handicapped

People's Society

Crosby, Bootle, Litherland and District

Spastics Society

Warrington and District Group for the

Welfare of Spastics

Chester and District Spastics Association

Colwyn Bay and District Spastics Society

Celwydd and District Spastics Society

Flint and District Spastics Society

Montgomeryshire Spastics Society

Southport, Formby and District Spastics
Society

Widnes Spastic Fellowship Group

Regional Officer:

Mr. F. Young, 6 King's Buildings, Chester.
Tel. 0244 27127

Regional Social Worker:

Miss E. Williams, same address

5 EAST MIDLAND REGION

Boston District Branch

Chesterfield and District Spastics Society

Coalville and District Spastics Society

Derby and District Spastics Society

Grantham and District Friends of Spastics

Group

Grimsby, Cleethorpes and District Friends

of Spastics Society

Leicester and District Spastics Society

Lincoln and District Spastics Society

Loughborough and District Spastics Society

Mansfield and District Friends of Spastics

Group

Newark Area Spastics Society

Northampton and County Spastics Society

Nottingham and District Friends of Spastics

Group

Scunthorpe and District Spastics Society

Stamford and District Spastics Society

Regional Officer:

Mr. T. H. O'Neill, Holland House, 43 Lough-
borough Road, West Bridgford, Nottingham.
Tel. 0602 84357

Regional Social Worker:

Mrs. M. Lane, same address

6 WEST MIDLAND REGION

Coventry and District Spastics Society

Dudley and District Spastic Group

Herefordshire Spastics Society

Kidderminster and District Spastics

Association

Midland Spastic Association

North Staffordshire Spastic Association

Shropshire Spastics Society

Stafford and District Spastic Association

West Bromwich and District Spastics Society

Wolverhampton and District Spastics Society

Regional Officer:

Mr. N. E. Geddes, Vehicle and General
House, Hurst St., Birmingham 5.
Tel. 643-3367

Regional Social Worker:

Mr. M. Townsend, same address
(apart from Birmingham and Worcestershire
areas)

Senior Welfare Officer, M.S.A. (Birmingham
and Worcestershire areas):

Mrs. N. M. Barrett, 15 Victoria Road, Har-
borne, Birmingham 17. Tel. 021 HAR 3182
and 021 HAR 2458

7 SOUTH WALES REGION

(including Monmouthshire)

Cardiff and District Spastics Association

Kenfig Hill and District Spastics Society

Merthyr Tydfil and District Spastics Society

Monmouthshire Spastics Society

Continued Overleaf

Local Group Provision (Cont'd)

Pembrokeshire Spastics Society
Pontypridd and District Spastics Society
Swansea and District Spastics Assoc. **TECW**

Regional Officer:

Mr. B. Kingsley-Davies, 2 Saunders Road,
Cardiff. CFI 5DA. Tel. 0222 29289

Regional Social Worker:

Mrs. P. A. Smith, same address

8 EAST ANGLIA REGION

Braintree and North-West Essex Spastics
Society

Cambridge and District Spastics Society
Chelmsford and District Spastics Society
Clacton and District Spastics Society
Colchester and District Spastics Society
Ipswich and East Suffolk Spastics Society **TW**
King's Lynn and West Norfolk Spastics
Society

Lowestoft and N.E. Suffolk Spastics Society
Norfolk and Norwich Spastics Association **W**
Peterborough and District Spastics Society **O**
Southend-on-Sea and District Spastics
Society **OC**

Thurrock and District Spastics Society

Regional Officer:
Mr. H. G. Knight, 51 Newnham Road,
Cambridge. Tel. 0223 61747

Regional Social Worker:
Mrs. G. J. Thorn, 53A Head Street, Col-
chester. Tel. 72374

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9 NORTHERN HOME COUNTIES REGION

Bedford and District Branch **TOWEC**
Bishop's Stortford and District Group,
Herts Spastics Society

East Herts Group, Herts Spastics Society
Friends of Ponds Home

Hatfield and District Spastics Society
Hemel Hempstead and District Group, Herts
Spastics Society

Hitchin, Letchworth and Stevenage Spastics
Society

Luton, Dunstable and District Spastics
Group **TEC**

Maldenhead Friends of Spastics Group
Oxfordshire Spastics Welfare Society **TOC**
Reading and Berkshire Spastics Welfare
Society **T**

Slough and District Spastics Welfare Society
St. Albans and District Group, Herts
Spastics Society **T**

Watford and District Group, Herts Spastics
Society **TEOC**

Welwyn Garden City and District Group,
Herts Spastics Society

Wycombe and District Spastics Society **CT**

Regional Officer:
Mr. R. C. Lemarie, 524 St. Alban's Road,
North Watford. Tel. 92 41565

Regional Social Workers:
Miss U. M. Ballance, same address. Tel. 92
41059

Miss C. A. Cuming (part-time), Area Social
Work Office, Castle Priory, Thames St.,
Wallingford, Berks. Tel. 0491 3 2551

Regional Social Worker:
Miss U. M. Ballance, same address. Tel. 92
41059

Miss C. A. Cuming (part-time), Area Social
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Cheltenham and District Spastics
Association **ETC**

Gloucester and District Spastics Association
Isle of Wight Spastics Society **TE**
Portsmouth and District Spastics Society **W**

Salisbury and District Spastics Association
Southampton and District Spastics
Association **TOWCE**

Swindon and District Spastics Society **H**
Winchester and District Spastics Society

Regional Officer:
Miss C. Mould, 7 St. John Street, Salisbury
Tel. 0722 4521

Regional Social Worker:
Mr. R. Jenkinson, same address

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Folkestone Group **H**
Horsham, Crawley and District Spastic Society

Maldstone Area Spastic Group **OT**
Medway Towns Branch **CT**

North Hants and West Surrey Group **TECO**
North-West Surrey Group **TEOC**

South-East Surrey Group **TOC**
South-West Surrey Group **TEOC**

Thanet Group
Tonbridge Wells, Tonbridge and Area
Group **C**

West Sussex Spastics Group
Worthing, Littlehampton & District Spastics
Society **W**

Regional Officer:
Mr. M. R. Venables, office at 29b Linkfield
Lane, Redhill, Surrey. Tel. 756 63944 and
62250

Regional Social Workers:
Mrs. Vera Chinchin, same address
Miss J. M. Goldie (part-time), same address

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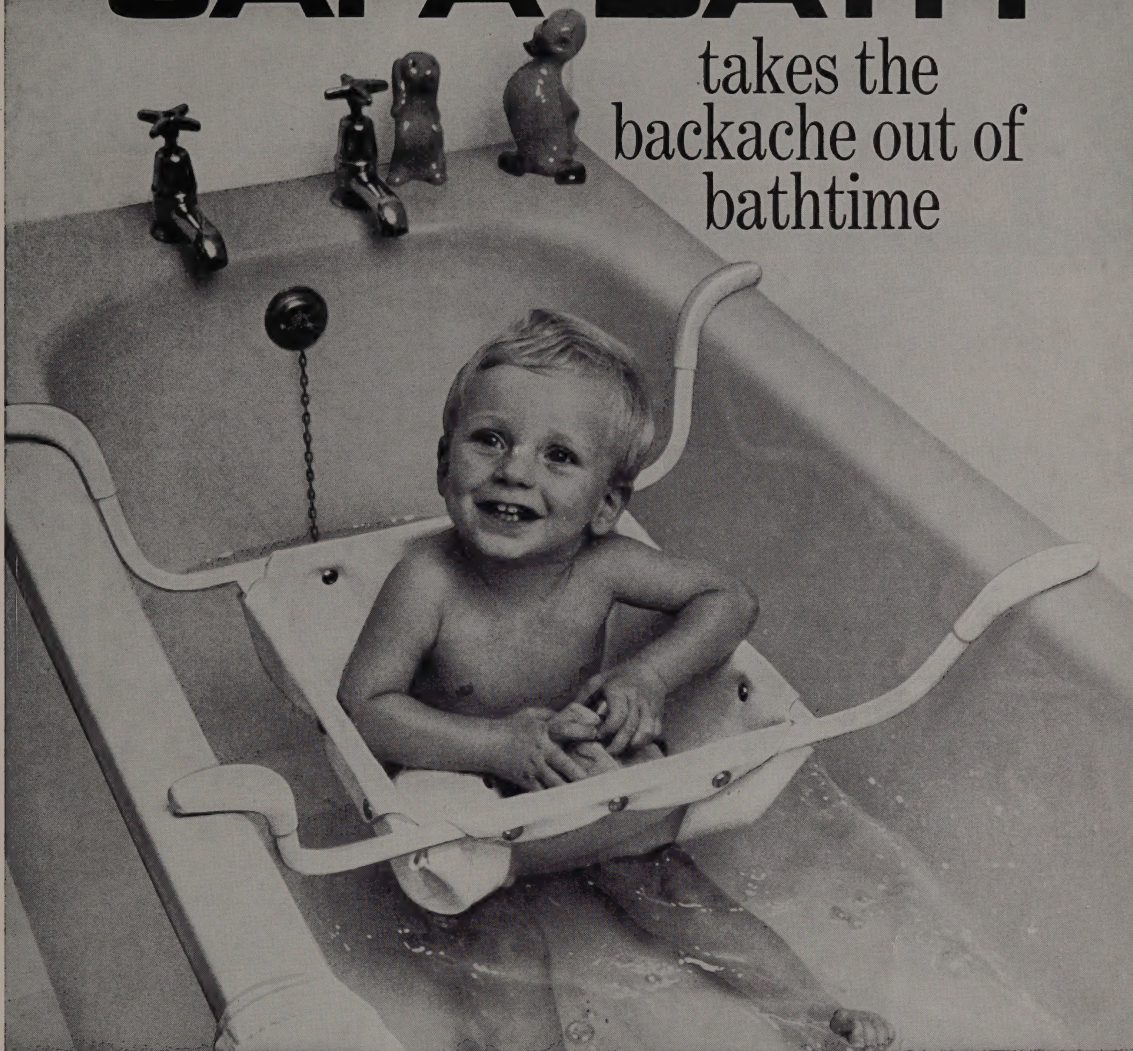
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Leonard Shepherd, Richard Norton, Margaret Watson, Linda Willey and Brian Tanner take their turn with the washing-up chores at Colwall Court (See story, page 16).